(c) the details of the proposal of the Tea Board to increase area under tea plantation during Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target set and achievement made in respect of production and export during last three years is furnished below:

(in Million Kgs.)

	Production		Export	
Year	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
2001-02	900	847.46	205	190
2002-03	875	837.60	200	184
2003-04	851	850.49	200	180

The targets have been progressively reduced during this period because of the difficult position that the industry has been facing in the last few years due to a situation of over supply internationally.

(c) During Tenth Plan, an area of 2700 hectares is envisaged for new cultivation spread over North East States, Sikkim and Uttaranchal under the ongoing tea plantation development scheme of the Tea Board.

Pressure for outsourcing of Services

1182. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that US companies are under pressure from consulting companies such as Boston Consulting Group to outsource to low cost countries or perish; and

(b) if so, the measures Government have taken to get the due share in the business that can be handled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Consulting companies such as the Boston Consulting Group have come out with reports highlighting the benefits of outsourcing under certain conditions.

(b) The Government of India and the industry have been working in promoting the interests of the Indian IT industry and have also been closely monitoring the situation in consultation with our Missions.

Tax on cement production

†1183. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is heavy tax on cement production;

(b) if so, the stages of production on which Government realize tax and cess alongwith the rates thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government's attention has been drawn to reduce the rate of tax; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) There is no stage-wise tax on the production of cement. Inputs like limestone, coal and power used in the production of cement are subject to payment of royalty and duty on power tariff. Royalty on limestone and coal at the rate of Rs. 60/- and Rs. 20/- per tonne respectively is fixed by the Centre and revenue is collected by the State Governments. Duty on power tariff is fixed and collected by the State Governments and varies from State to State. Besides these, excise duty, sales tax and octroi are imposed on the final product. Excise duty at the rate of Rs. 400 per tonne of cement is imposed and collected by the Centre. Sales tax and octroi are imposed by the State Government and their local municipalities respectively and also vary from State to State.

Trade with New Zealand

1184. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that New Zealand has identified forestry, IT and biotechnology as key areas of trade with the country;

(b) what is the present trade position with New Zealand; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.